United Nations E/2005/32 (Part I)

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
15 February 2005

Original: English

Substantive session of 2005
New York, 5-14 January 2005
Agenda item 12
Non-governmental organizations

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2005 regular session

(New York, 5-14 January 2005)

05-23972 (E) 140305

Summary

At its 2005 regular session, held from 5 to 14 January 2005, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had before it 144 applications for consultative status, including applications deferred from its 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 sessions. Of those applications, the Committee recommended 87 applications for consultative status, deferred 52 organizations for further consideration at a later date and closed its consideration of two organizations. The Committee had also before it one request for reclassification of consultative status, which it recommended. In addition, it reviewed 84 quadrennial reports. The Committee heard five representatives of non-governmental organizations.

The present report contains four draft decisions on matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council.

By draft decision I, the Council would:

(a) Grant consultative status to 87 non-governmental organizations;

(b) Reclassify one non-governmental organization;

(c) Note that the Committee took note of the quadrennial reports of 72 organizations;

(d) Decide to close consideration of the applications of two non-governmental organizations.

By draft decision II, the Economic and Social Council would request the organization Associacion para la Paz Continental, an organization suspended in 2000 by the Council, to submit an updated application to be recognized as a consultative entity, which the Committee would examine in future sessions.

By draft decision III, the Economic and Social Council would request that the two days not used by the Committee at its regular session be added to its two-week resumed session to be held in May 2005, on the understanding that conference services for these two days would be provided on an as available basis.

By draft decision IV, the Economic and Social Council would take note of the present report.

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

Draft decisions for adoption by the Council

1. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I[1]
Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations

The Economic and Social Council decides:

(a) To grant consultative status to the following 87 non-governmental organizations:

General consultative status

Coordination SUD

United Cities and Local Governments

Special consultative status

Action contre la faim

Adolescent Health and Information Projects

Advocates for Youth

African Business Round Table

African Community Resource Center

Africare

Albert Schweitzer Institute

Aleut International Association

Arab-Mexican Chamber of Industry and Commerce

Asia Pacific Network Information Centre

Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia

Association mauritanienne pour la santé de la mère et de l'enfant

Association mauritanienne pour le développement et la protection de l'environnement

Association pour la collaboration globale

Association relation nationale pour l'appui a l'initiative feminine de la protection infantile et environnementale

[1] Subsequently adopted by the Council as its decision 2005/207 of 4 February 2005.

Australian Reproductive Health Alliance

Aviation sans frontières

Be Active, Be Emancipated

Central and Eastern European Harm Reduction Network

Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development

Centro de Estudio y Formación Integral de la Mujer

Charity Foundation for Special Diseases

China Arms Control and Disarmament Association

China Family Planning Association

Comité français des organisation non gouvernementales pour liaison et l'information des Nations Unies

Associazione Tecnico Scientifica di Base

Dui Hua Foundation

Engender

European AIDS Treatment Group

Feminists for Life of America

Fondation européenne pour le développement durable des régions

Fondation Surgir

Foundation for the Refugee Education Trust

Global Youth Action Network

Huairou Commission

Humanitarian Foundation of Canada

International Association of Initiatives of Change

International Association of Science Parks

International Center for Clubhouse Development

International Conference Volunteers

International Development Enterprises India

International Justice Mission

Iranian Elite Research Center

Istanbul International Brotherhood and Solidarity Association

Kenya Tuitakayo

Korean Council for Local Agenda 21

Korean Foundation for World Aid

Kuwait Information Technology Society

Landmine Survivors Network

Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association

National Aboriginal Forestry Association

National Abortion Federation

National Council of Women of Malta

National Women's Justice Coalition

Native Women's Association of Canada

New Zealand Family Planning Association

Nigerian Institute of Homeopathy

Nonviolence International

Organisation de défense de l'environnement au Burundi

Organisation Mondiale des associations pour l'éducation prénatale

People with Disability Australia

Rodale Institute

Sawiris Foundation for Social Development

Sign of Hope

Simply Help

Tarumitra

Terre Vivante

Turkish Foundation for Children in need of Protection

Virtue Foundation

Watson Institute for International Studies

Women's Learning Partnership for Rights, Development and Peace

Yad Sarah

Zenab for Women in Development

Roster

Agir en faveur de l'environnement

Arab NGO Network for Development

Colegio de Abogados especialistas en Derecho Ambiental de Colombia

Council of Bureaux

Ecospirituality Foundation

Europlatforms European Economic Interest Grouping

Evangelical Fellowship of India Commission on Relief

International Steering Committee for Global Mapping

Labor/Community Strategy Center

Sirius Global Animal Organisation Charitable Trust

Tearfund

World Chlorine Council

(b) To reclassify one non-governmental organization from special consultative status to general consultative status:

New Humanity

(c) To note that the Committee took note of the quadrennial reports of the following 72 organizations (years of reporting indicated in parentheses):

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (1999-2002)

Agudas Israel World Organization (2000-2003)

Alliance for Arab Women (2000-2003)

American Psychological Association (2000-2003)

Arab Centre for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession (2000-2003)

Asia-Japan Women's Resource Centre (2000-2003)

Asian Women in Cooperative Development (2000-2003)

Association de volontaires pour le service internationale (2000-2003)

Brothers of Charity (1999-2002)

Center for International Earth Science Information Network (1999-2002)

Center for Women's Global Leadership (2000-2003)

China Disabled Person's Federation (1998-2001)

Chinese Immigrants Services (1998-2001)

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (2000-2003)

Croatian World Congress (1998-2001)

Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevoelkerung (German Foundation for World Population) (1999-2002)

Earthcorps (2000-2003)

Earthjustice (1999-2002)

Egyptian AIDS Society (2000-2003)

Europe 2000 (1999-2002)

Federation of European Motorcyclists' Associations (2000-2003)

Fondazione Giovanni e Francesca Falcone (2000-2003)

General Confederation of Trade Unions (1998-2001)

Hong Kong Federation of Women (2000-2003)

Hope Worldwide (2000-2003)

Human Lactation Center (2000-2003)

Humane Society of the United States (2000-2003)

Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation (2000-2003)

Institute for Environment and Development Studies (2000-2003)

International Astronautical Federation (2000-2003)

International Catholic Migration Commission (2000-2003)

International Council on Social Welfare (2000-2003)

International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (2000-2003)

International Fellowship of Reconciliation (1999-2002)

International HIV/AIDS Alliance (2000-2003)

International Hotel and Restaurant Association (1999-2002)

International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (1999-2002)

International Lactation Consultant Association (2000-2003)

International Movement ATD Fourth World (1999-2002)

International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation (2000-2003)

International Rural Housing Association (2000-2003)

International Union of Psychological Science (1998-2001)

Ipas (1998-2001)

Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning (2000-2003)

Lebanese Welfare Association for the Handicapped (2000-2003)

Liberty International (1999-2002)

Life for Relief and Development (1999-2002)

Lutheran World Federation (2000-2003)

Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights (1998-2001)

Match International Centre (2000-2003)

Minnesota Advocates For Human Rights (2000-2003)

National Council of Women of Great Britain (2000-2003)

Nigerian Centre for Research and Documentation (1999-2002)

Pag-Aalay Ng Puso Foundation (Offering Of The Heart Foundation) (1999-2002)

PanAmerican-PanAfrican Association (1999-2002)

Parliamentarians for Global Action (1998-2001)

Radin Institute for Family Health Education and Promotion (2000-2003)

Rehab Group (2000-2003)

Several Sources Foundation (1999-2002)

Shimin Gaikou Centre (1999-2002)

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas (1998-2001)

Solar Cookers International (2000-2003)

SOS Kinderdorf International (1999-2002)

Temple of Understanding (1999-2002)

Transnational Radical Party (1995-1998)

United Nations Association of Russia (1999-2002)

Water Environment Federation (1999-2002)

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (2000-2003)

Woods Hole Research Center (2000-2003)

World Alliance of Reformed Churches (2000-2003)

World Federation of Therapeutic Communities (2000-2003)

World Veterans Federation (2000-2003)

(d) To note that the Committee closed consideration of the request for consultative status made by the following two organizations:

Association of Expelled (Displaced-Exiled) Persons

Association internationale de boxe educative

Draft decision II[2]

Matters pertaining to reinstatement of consultative status of non-governmental organizations in cases where consultative status was suspended by the Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council decides to request the organization Associacion para la Paz Continental, an organization suspended in 2000 by the Council, to submit an updated application to be recognized as a consultative entity, which the Committee would examine in future sessions.

[2] Subsequently adopted by the Council as its decision 2005/208 of 4 February 2005.

Draft decision III[3]
Organization of work

The Economic and Social Council requests that the two days not used by the Committee at its regular session be added to its two-week resumed session to be held in May 2005, on the understanding that conference services for these two days would be provided on an as available basis.

Draft decision IV
Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2005 regular session

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2005 regular session.[4]

[3] Subsequently adopted by the Council as its decision 2005/209 of 4 February 2005.

[4] E/2004/32 (Part I) will be issued subsequently with E/2004/32 (Part II) as *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 12* (E/2005/32).

Chapter II

Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification

2. The Committee considered item 3 of its agenda at its 1st to 9th, 11th and 14th to 16th meetings, on 5 to 7 and from 10 to 14 January 2005. It had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General containing new applications for consultative status received from non-governmental organizations (E/C.2/2005/R.2 and Add.1-15) as well as a compilation of applications for consultative status deferred from previous sessions (E/C.2/2005/CRP.1).

A. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from previous sessions of the Committee

Requests for consultative status

Applications recommended

3. The Committee considered item 3 (a) of its agenda, including applications for consultative status deferred from previous sessions of the Committee held in 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004, contained in document E/C.2/2005/CRP.1, at its 6th to 9th and 14th and 15th meetings, on 7, 10, 11, 13 and 14 January. The Committee recommended that the Council grant consultative status to 15 organizations whose applications had been deferred from previous sessions (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (a)).

Applications deferred pending responses to questions posed by the Committee

4. The Committee deferred its consideration of the applications of the following organizations pending the receipt of responses to questions posed by the Committee during its 2005 regular session:

AIDS Action

Ambedkar Centre for Justice and Peace

American Conservative Union

Angel Foundation

Asian-Eurasian Human Rights Forum

Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

Ecumenical Coalition on Third World Tourism

Fazaldad Human Rights Institute

Federation of American Scientists

Human Rights International Alliance

Indian Federation of United Nations Associations

Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage

International Centre for Peace Studies

International Crisis Group

Kashmiri American Council

Le Foyer musulman

Maharashtra Foundation

Mountain Women Development Organization New Millennium Peace Foundation

NIRDHAR Women and Child Development Organisation

Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation

Sahara for Life Trust

Social Action Forum for Manav Adhikar

Social Alert

Society for the Promotion of Youth and Masses

Stree Atyachar Virodhi Parishad

Swedish NGO Foundation for Human Rights

Vali-Asr Rehabilitation Foundation for Disabled Children and Adults

Vikas Samiti

World Assembly of Muslim Youth

World Council of Muslim Communities

World Sindhi Institute

Applications closed

5. At its 6th and 15th meetings, on 7 and 14 January, the Committee decided to close consideration of the Association internationale de boxe educative and the Association of Expelled (Displaced-Exiled) Persons.

B. New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification

6. The Committee considered item 3 (b) of its agenda, contained in documents E/C.2/2004/R.2/Add.1-16 at its 1st through 7th, 11th, 14th to 16th meetings, on 5 to 7, 10 and 12 to 14 January 2005.

1. New applications for consultative status

Applications recommended

7. The Committee recommended that consultative status with the Council be granted to 78 organizations that had submitted new applications (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (a)).

Yad Sarah

8. At its 5th, 11th and 14th to 16th meetings, on 7 and 12 to 14 January, the Committee considered the application of Yad Sarah, an Israel-based organization.

9. The representatives of Germany, France, Chile, Turkey, Colombia, Cameroon, India, the United States of America and Romania supported a recommendation for consultative status for this national organization, which, as they emphasized, aims at assisting people with special needs to continue to live with their families and within their communities, as well to develop services in the home-care field. The observer delegation of Nigeria also spoke in favour of the organization.

10. The representatives of the Sudan and of the Observer delegations of the Syrian Arab Republic and Palestine expressed concerns and asked questions regarding certain aspects of the activities carried out by the organization. Some other delegations stressed the need for time in considering this application, since the organization would have to provide adequate responses.

11. On 14 January, when the Committee resumed its consideration of the work of this organization, the representative of Germany reminded the members of the Committee that he had announced the day before that it was the intention of his delegation to take action on this application at the current session of the Committee. Over 30 questions had been posed to the organization, to which it had responded promptly. He stressed that the organization had stated many times that it was a non-political, non-partisan organization committed to help disabled people in a non-discriminatory manner and had proved that by its actions. Since it was the last day of the Committee's session, action had to be taken immediately in order to avoid the risk that, if delayed further, the matter could be transformed from a non-political case into a political one.

12. In the ensuing dialogue, a number of delegations continued to express their dissatisfaction with the responses provided by the organization.

13. The representative of the Sudan pointed out that the organization was vague in its responses and did not address the specific questions posed by delegations.

14. The representative of Palestine, speaking as an Observer delegation, stated that the organization had consistently not responded to her questions, namely, about its activities in "the illegal settlements in occupied Palestine territory". Such activities would run counter to international law and United Nations resolutions. She also wished to have the organization explain in detail its activities in Ramallah and its relationship to the government and the army.

15. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, also speaking as an Observer State, underlined that the refusal to answer the question posed by Palestine made clear that the organization was active in the settlements.

16. Following a long debate on the work of the organization, the Committee decided without a vote to grant special consultative status to the organization.

17. The representatives of Cuba and the Sudan expressed regret about the procedure that had been followed and disassociated themselves from the consensus.

18. The representative of France, speaking also on behalf of Germany, stated that he had assessed this application on the basis of its own merits, as he did all applications before the Committee. The file itself, the comments received from the

capital and from the ground and the seriousness of the answers provided by Yad Sarah had convinced him of the quality of this application, which France and Germany had supported since the beginning of the procedure. The Committee had been wise to take a decision without a vote. It was essential for the Committee to adopt a technical, non-political stance on the applications it had to review, in line with the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31. The representatives of United States of America and Romania supported the statement made jointly by France and Germany.

19. The representatives of China, the Russian Federation, Cuba, the Sudan, Pakistan and Zimbabwe stated that it was a departure from the practice of the Committee to take such a decision in haste. Practices implemented in the past regarding the way the Committee conducted its work should be implemented in the future.

20. The Observer of the Syrian Arab Republic regretted that the Committee had granted status to an organization that had not responded to all the questions posed by delegations. Such an action created a precedent that had a negative impact on the work of the Committee.

21. The Observer of Palestine said that, for the reasons she mentioned above, her delegation would follow the work of the organization in the future.

Applications deferred pending responses posed by the Committee

22. The Committee decided to defer its consideration of the applications of the following 11 organizations pending the receipt of responses to questions posed by the Committee at its 2005 regular session or owing to lack of time:

Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Karnataka

Centre for Human Rights and Environment

China Institute for Reform and Development

Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants

Academy for Mobilizing Rural-Urban through Education

Crime Stoppers International

Ecological Youth of Angola

Egyptian Organization for Human Rights

General Union

Kerala Rural Development Agency

S. M. Sehgal Foundation (India)

Other deferrals

23. Applications submitted by the following for organizations have not been considered or have been deferred to the next session of the Committee, pending additional questions to be posed by Committee members, to complement responses already received from these organizations:

European Solidarity Towards Equal Participation of People

Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS

All India Movement for Seva

Engine Manufacturers Association

Withdrawal of applications

24. The following two organizations decided to withdraw their applications:

Associazione scuola internazionale di onto arte

European Baha'i Business Forum

2. New requests for reclassification

25. At its 5th meeting, on 7 January, the Committee decided to recommend the reclassification of one organization, New Humanity, from special to general consultative status (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (b)).

Chapter III

Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special status with the Economic and Social Council

A. Quadrennial reports deferred from previous session of the Committee

26. The Committee considered quadrennial reports deferred from previous sessions under item 4 of its agenda at its 7th and 9th meetings, on 10 and 11 January. It had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General containing a compilation of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and consultative status with the Council on their activities during the periods from 1994 to 1997, 1995 to 1998 and 1996 to 1999, which have been deferred from previous sessions of the Committee (E/C.2/2005/CRP.2). The Committee took note of the quadrennial reports of one organization deferred from 1995 to 1998 (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (c)).

27. The Committee decided to defer its consideration of the quadrennial reports of the following organizations pending response from the organizations to questions posed by the Committee:

Centrist Democrat International

International Press Institute

Islamic Relief

International Association for Religious Freedom

International Trustee Fund of the Tsyolkovsky Moscow State Aviation Technological University

B. New quadrennial reports

28. The Committee considered new quadrennial reports under item 4 of its agenda at its 8th, 10th, 11th, 13th and 15th meetings, held from 10 to 14 January. It had before it memoranda of the Secretary-General containing new quadrennial reports (E/C.2/2005/2 and Add.1-9). The Committee took note of the quadrennial reports of 72 organizations (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (c)).

29. The Committee decided to defer its consideration of the quadrennial reports of the following seven organizations pending responses to the questions posed by the Committee on its report:

Armenian Assembly of America

Association for the Prevention of Torture

International Jurists Organization (Asia)

International Service for Human Rights

Peace Education Foundation

Transnational Radical Party

Word of Life Christian Fellowship

Chapter IV

Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

30. The Committee was informed that the Chief of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section will give a report on the various activities of the Section during 2004-2005 at the 2005 resumed session of the Committee.

Chapter V

Review of the methods of work of the Committee: implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, and decision 1995/304

A. Matters pertaining to the reinstatement of consultative status of non-governmental organizations in cases where consultative status was suspended by the Economic and Social Council

31. At its 12th meeting, on 12 January, the Committee considered the criteria of reinsertion of consultative status of the Economic and Social Council to International Council of the Association for the Peace in the Continents.

32. At its 2000 resumed session, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the recommendation of the Committee to suspend the consultative status of the international Council, which had been granted special consultative status in 1999. At the 2004 regular session of the Committee, the Council requested reinstatement of its consultative status with the Council. At the same session, the Committee decided, before considering the reinstatement of the organization's consultative status, to request a special report from the organization on its activities during its three years of suspension, the fulfilment during this period of the provisions of Council resolutions 1996/31, possible changes that have taken place in the organization and how the organization has overcome the reasons for the suspension.

33. At its 12th meeting, on 12 January, the Committee considered the special report of the organization. In its report, the organization had explained that it had undergone an important reorganization and was mainly focusing on educational activities related to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

34. The Cuban Ambassador concluded that, according to the special report, the International Council of the Association for the Peace in the Continents did not meet the requirements stated by the Committee in its decision 2004/2 regarding the question on how the organization has overcome the reasons for the suspension and on its possible changes. The organization did not even refer to the modification of its by-laws, something mandated by the Spanish legislation in force, and has been vague in providing information requested on its activities carried out during the suspension. The Ambassador also stated that the organization continues with a definite politicized profile, which promotes activities of other known terrorist anti-Cuban organizations, contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31. For all these reasons, the Ambassador requested that the organization should submit a new application for consultative status.

35. A number of speakers took part in the discussion, including the Sudan, China, the Russian Federation, Zimbabwe, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, to point out that the International Council of the Association for the Peace in the Continents had avoided providing detailed information on the structural changes that had taken place in the organization and that it seemed determined to continue its political-related activities. They also believed that the organization should submit a

new application. In addition, several delegations were of the view that the reinstatement issue should be debated in the informal working group of the Committee.

36. The representative of the United States believed that the organization had provided the information requested by the Committee. Serious allegations of terrorism against the International Council of the Association for the Peace in the Continents had been made by the delegation of Cuba. He underlined that these allegations were addressed to other organizations, not the organization in question, and that some of them went back to 1980. He did not support the Cuban proposal requesting the organization to submit a new application for consultative status, the need for which was not mentioned in Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

37. The representative of France underlined that the proposal introduced by Cuba as it stood was in contradiction with the principles to be applied, as set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31. It would blur the clear distinction in the resolution between suspension and withdrawal of consultative status. Therefore, should the Committee request the submission of a new application, it would contradict itself since it had decided in 2000 to suspend consultative status, not to withdraw it. Such a move would create an unacceptable precedent since it would mean the rewriting of the provisions of resolution 1996/31. It was of utmost importance that the Committee respect the letter and the spirit of that resolution.

38. The delegation of Cuba reminded the Committee that it had suspended the International Lesbian and Gay Association in 1994. After three years of suspension, when the Association had requested to be reinstated, the Committee, after considering the request for its reinstatement in 1998, had decided that it had to submit a new application to reapply.

39. The delegation of Germany reminded the Committee that the International Lesbian and Gay Association was suspended in 1994, under the old regime, before the adoption of resolution 1996/31. This precedent could not therefore apply to the present situation.

40. On a motion to adjourn the debate, proposed by the representative of the United States, as stipulated in rule 50 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, the representatives of the United States and Germany spoke in favour of the adjournment. The representatives of China and Zimbabwe spoke against it.

41. The Committee rejected the proposal by a roll-call vote of 5 to 8, with 5 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Chile, France, Germany, Romania, United States of America

Against:

China, Colombia, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Peru, Russian Federation, Sudan, Zimbabwe

Abstaining:

Cameroon, India, Pakistan, Senegal, Turkey

42. After the vote, the representative of the United States submitted an amendment to Cuba's proposal, namely that the Committee would not ask for a new, but for an updated application. The amendment was accepted. The Committee then decided by consensus "to request the International Council of the Association for the Peace in the Continents to present an updated application to be recognized as consultative entity, which the Committee would examine in future sessions".

Statements before the adoption of the decision by consensus

43. The representative of Cuba stated that the organization had been given every opportunity to respond to the questions posed by the Committee and had not done so.

44. The representative of the United States stated that the language used in the decision was unstructured, adding that it would be understandable that "future sessions" should also include "May 2005", if the updated application has been received by then.

45. The representative of France, speaking also on behalf of Germany, stated that although he joined the consensus, he regretted having been forced to give a view on a text that had not been sufficiently well prepared as to be acceptable to all. The decision should not be considered in such a way that a suspended organization should start from scratch in the application process in order to be reinstated. On the contrary, in the case of suspensions, the reinstatement of the status at the end of the suspension period should, in principle, be automatic. The representative of France recalled the declarations he had made on this legal issue at the 2004 resumed session of the Committee. The representatives of the United States, Romania and Chile associated themselves with his statement.

46. The representative of India was of the view that the decision to be adopted was not in accordance with the rules that govern the Committee, namely Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, by which there was no provision to seek an updated application. The preference would have been to perhaps seek another special report, and should it be necessary, to withdraw the status of the organization, which would be in accordance with resolution 1996/31.

Statements after the adoption of the decision

47. The representative of China stated that the decision of the Committee on the International Council of the Association for the Peace in the Continents reaffirms that reinstatement of a suspended organization is not automatic, but requires formal decision by the Committee and that the Chinese delegation understood that the motion moved before the Committee took its decision on the organization was a de facto "no-action motion".

48. The representative of Cuba stated that

> "The International Council of the Association for the Peace in the Continents didn't respond to the request to inform the Committee on how the organization had overcome the reasons for the suspension and was too vague in its report on its possible changes and its activities carried out during the suspension. The organization continued its politicized profile against Cuba, supporting activities of known terrorist anti-Cuban organizations, whose clear objective is to oust our constitutional order.

"We gave the International Council of the Association for the Peace in the Continents all the opportunities to make itself clear. When the Committee faced a similar situation in the past, the other non-governmental organization was not even given the benefit by the Committee of allowing it to give due explanations. Instead the Committee demanded from it, almost immediately, the submission of a new request for consultative category. That is the real precedent we have after the coming into force of resolution 1996/31. We would have liked the delegations interested in continuing to offer the organization another chance to make themselves clear, to have made reference to the special report and concentrated on explaining the varied questions the organization deceitfully and sometimes disrespectfully concealed, omitted or submitted against Member States."

49. The delegations of the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran were of the view that the Council had not set out any procedure in the case of a reinstatement of status. Therefore, the Committee needed to adopt a single procedure to deal with this issue in the future.

B. Other related matters

1. Non-governmental organizations in consultative status registered under a new name

50. At its 13th meeting, on 13 January, the Committee considered the procedures pertaining to mergers, namely organizations in consultative status merging with other organizations with or without status wishing to operate under a new name.

51. The Committee decided that an organization resulting from a merger of organizations having consultative status with the Council should retain consultative status. The status retained should be classified at the highest category given to the organizations that are party to the merger. The Committee decided to recommend general consultative status to United Cities and Local Governments, a merger of the International Union of Local Authorities and the Union Town Organization. It recommended special consultative status to Engender, a merger of Women's Forum Scotland and Engender-Association for Voluntary Surgical Contraception.

52. The Committee decided to defer consideration of the following organizations resulting from mergers of organizations not having consultative status with the Council:

The International Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Sports Federation-International Sports Organization for the Disabled, merger of the International Sports Organization for the Disabled, in special consultative status, and the International Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Sports Federation, not in status.

International Association of Women Judges, merger of International Women Judges Foundation, in special consultative status, and International Association of Women Judges, not in status.

Center for Health and Population and Social Welfare, Futures Institute for Sustainable Development, merger of World Population Society, in special consultative status, and Center for Health and Population and Social Welfare, Futures Institute for Sustainable Development, not in status.

Cordaid, merger of Catholic Organization for Development, in special consultative status, and Memisa and Mensen in Nood, not in status.

53. A number of delegations thought that organizations merging under a new name should submit an updated application, including a new financial statement, registration and by-laws. It was decided that this issue will be placed on the agenda of the informal working group in order to determine the appropriate procedure.

2. Closure of non-governmental organizations

54. At its 13th meeting, on 13 January, the Committee took note of the closure of the following organizations that had informed the Secretariat of the termination of their activities:

Committee for European Security and Cooperation

International Family Health

Oceans Institute of Canada

Chapter VI

Applications for consultative status received from non-governmental organizations wishing to participate in the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development

A. Implementation of Economic and Social Council decision 2001/295

55. At its 9th meeting, on 11 January, the Committee considered the requests for consultative status of organizations placed on the Roster for the purpose of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development (see E/2005/CRP.7). The Committee, in its deliberations, proceeded in accordance with Council decision 2001/295, whereby the Council had decided that non-governmental organizations referred to in its decision 1993/220 that wished to expand their participation in other fields of the Council would be considered by the Committee, and that the Committee would do so as expeditiously as possible under an item of its agenda, following the rules and provisions stipulated in Council resolution 1996/31.

56. The Committee decided to defer consideration of Environmental Protection Society owing to the fact that, despite several attempts, the secretariat had not yet been able to contact the organization, which needed to respond to questions posed by the Committee.

B. Implementation of Economic and Social Council decision 2004/212

57. At its 2nd and 10th meetings on 5 and 11 January, the Committee considered the requests for consultative status of organizations and other major groups, accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Committee, in its deliberations, proceeded in accordance with Council decision E/2004/212, whereby the Council had decided that the organizations having participated in the Summit that wished to participate in future sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development beyond the first two-year implementation cycle, would be considered by the Committee, and that the Committee would do so as expeditiously as possible under an item of its agenda, following the rules and provisions stipulated in Council resolution 1996/31.

58. The Committee recommended that Roster status with the Council be granted to the following seven organizations that had submitted new applications:

Arab NGO Network for Development

Colegio de abogados especialistas en derecho ambiental de Colombia

Evangelical Fellowship of India Commission on Relief

International Steering Committee for Global Mapping

Labor Community Strategy Center

Tearfund

Agir en faveur de l'environnement

Chapter VII

Consideration of special reports and complaints by Member States

Consideration of special reports

59. No special reports and/or complaints by member States under this agenda item were brought to the attention of the Committee.

Chapter VIII

General voluntary trust fund in support of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network

60. Consideration of this item was postponed to the resumed session of the Committee in order to cover one year of reporting of the Non-Governmental Organization Section on its Outreach Programme.

Chapter IX
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

61. The representative of Cuba said that he hoped that the situation experienced by the members of the Committee in 2004 and at the beginning of the regular session 2005, regarding the condition of availability of services, would not be repeated during the resumed session, in May 2005.

B. Attendance

62. At the 2005 session of the Committee, five representatives of non-governmental organizations were given the opportunity to respond to questions raised by the Committee. The additional information provided by the representatives facilitated the debate and the work of the Committee in taking its decisions.

C. Election of officers

63. At its 1st meeting, on 5 January, the Committee re-elected by acclamation the following officers:

Chairperson:
Paimaneh Hasteh (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Carlos Eduardo Jaramillo (Colombia)
Ilham I. Ahmad (Sudan)
Octavian Stamate (Romania)

64. At the same meeting, the Committee also elected by acclamation Martin Thümmel (Germany) as Vice-Chairperson.

65. At the same meeting, Octavian Stamate (Romania) also accepted to serve as Rapporteur.

D. Agenda

66. At its 1st meeting, on 5 January, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda for its 2005 session (E/C.2/2005/1).

67. At the same meeting, the Committee approved its organization of work as contained in working paper 1.

E. Documentation

68. The list of documents before the Committee at its 2005 session is contained in annex II to the present report.

Chapter X

Adoption of the report of the Committee at its 2005 session

69. At its 16th meeting on 14 January, the Committee adopted the draft report as contained in document E/C.2/2005/L.1 and authorized the Rapporteur to finalize the report, in consultation with the members of the Committee, as appropriate.

Annex I

List of participants

Members

Cameroon	Cathérine Mahouve Same, Naomi Akono
Chile	Christian Rehren, Claudio Rojas, Carla Serazzi
China	Xie Bohua, Liu Yuyin, Li Xiaomei
Colombia	Carlos Eduardo Jaramillo, Pedro Agustín Roa
Côte d'Ivoire	Guillaume Bailley-Niagri
Cuba	Luis Amoros Nuñez, Miguen
France	Caroline Belot, Philippe Bertoux, Thomas Lancien
Germany	Martin Thümmel, Matthias Kloth
India	Nirupam Sen, A. Gopinathan, Mukta Tomar
Islamic Republic of Iran	Mehdi Danesh-Yazdi, Mostafa Alaei, Paimaneh Hastaie, Farideh Hassani
Pakistan	Bilal Hayee, Imran Ahmed Siddiquie
Peru	Romy Tincopa
Romania	Octavian Stamate
Russian Federation	Vladimir Vertogradov, Andrei Nikiforov, Vladimir Zheglov
Senegal	Malick Thierno-Sow, Leysa Faye
Sudan	Ilham I. Ahmed, Hassan Hamid Hassan
Turkey	Serhat Aksen
United States of America	Mariano Ceinos-Cox, Peggy Kerry, Jennifer McCann, Joseph Bracken
Zimbabwe	Meshack Kitchen

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Algeria, Armenia, Ecuador, Finland, Ghana, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and Montenegro, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela and Viet Nam

Non-member States represented by observers

Holy See

Specialized agencies

International Labour Organization

Annex II

List of documents

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/C.2/2005/1	2	Provisional agenda and annotations
E/C.2/2005/2 and Add.1-9	4	Quadrennial reports
E/C.2/2005/3	6 and 8	Note by the Secretary-General on special reports
E/C.2/2005/CRP.1	3 (a)	Deferred applications for consultative status
E/C.2/2005/CRP.2	4	Quadrennial reports
E/C.2/2005/CRP.3 and 6	5	Strengthening of the NGO Section
E/C.2/2005/CRP.4	7	Implementation of Council decision 2001/295
E/C.2/2005/CRP.5	2	Provisional agenda and annotations
E/C.2/2005/CRP.7	7 (a)	Implementation of Economic and Social Council decision 2001/295
E/C.2/2005/CRP.8	9	Voluntary Trust Fund
E/C.2/2005/R.2 and Add.1-15	3 (b)	New applications for consultative status
E/C.2/2005/R.5 and Add.1	7 (b)	Implementation of Economic and Social Council decision 2004/212